

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Stephen W. Hillier, et al.

Examiner:

Benjamin E. Lanier

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Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SECURE COMMUNICATIONS USING THIRD-PARTY KEY PROVIDER

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed March 21, 2005, Applicants submit a Request for Continued Examination with the following preliminary amendment.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 17 of this paper.